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The Phi Delta Kappan

Continuing the National News Letter of Phi Delta Kappa

Published on the 15th of November, February, April and June at Kansas City, Mo.

ABEL J. McALLISTER, Managing Editor.

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APRIL, 1917

No. 3

An Appeal

Before writing this article I did not have time to ask the permission of the Brothers to use their names. If any apologies are due, they are herewith tendered. The occasion justifies sweeping away the cobwebs of decorum for the purpose of getting action. Important matters have been delayed, because Chapters have not acted upon them at their first opportunity. Apparently, in some cases at least, communications requiring answers have been laid aside and entirely forgotten for a time. This means that the officer involved is compelled to write a second, a third, an "n"-th letter. Surely you realize that he is just as busy as you are; that he has no time to throw away on things that, in their last analysis, are an utter waste of time. One letter is all that any officer should be required to write on any subject; any letters beyond that are, in a way, an insult to him and to the Council that elected him, in that he is ignored. It cannot be regarded as a personal affront, however; it is an affront to your representative, whatever his name may be.

The case in point? There are several, not one. When the Ohio Chapter sent in its petition and it was favorably acted upon, the bal-

lot was at once sent out by Brother Warren. Time passed, and affirmative votes came straggling in. Brother Warren sent out an appeal for greater speed. A few more came. Brother Arps, of the Ohio Chapter wrote the President. "The boys are getting somewhat impatient. They should like," etc. I could give him no satisfaction, as everything that could be done by the Executive Committee had been done, and the instant the requisite number of votes had been registered the Chapter was so informed.

The second case is that of the Pennsylvania Chapter, whose petition was allowed to drag along and drag along until Bro. Saiger was moved to the cry, "The boys are getting impatient," etc. Comes now the petitioning group from Northwestern. Everything had gone along without a hitch. The young men had copies enough made of their petition so that one might go to each Chapter. These have been in your hands for a considerable time, yet again comes the plaint, this time from Brother Webb. "The boys are getting somewhat impatient. They should like to be initiated before the end of the year."

In each case, let it be noted, the complaint comes, not from a peti-

tioner, but from a man already a Phi Delta Kappan, who, as sponsor for the group, takes a keen interest in its welfare, or rather, its vicissitudes, and has a right to voice his impatience at the long and uncalled for delays. In each case the petition was approved by the Executive Committee, and with their recommendation, at once sent out to the Chapters. In each case, also, matters were dragged out to a length that forced some brother to voice a protest at the dilatory tactics displayed.

The final item is even more important than the preceding three. If worst had come to worst, the petitioning Chapters could have been installed at some later date, and some of the dilatory Chapters might have salved their consciences by all sorts of specious arguments. But now the National Historian is moved to cry out with the Psalmist, "How long, oh Lord, how long!" Three Chapters are delinquent with their

material for the directory. Now this is not a matter that can be indefinitely postponed. It would hardly be worth while to publish a directory with three Chapter rolls missing, though, as a last resort, I should recommend that in preference to the alternative, namely, to discard all information already collected and start anew. Because, of course, in a year there are so many changes that it would be merely ancient history to publish material two years old. The directory becomes almost obsolete in a few years anyway. It is all the more necessary to have it up-to-date when it does appear and to organize the methods of collecting and tabulating the data. This Brother Houser is attempting to do. He has a Herculean task on his hands. Help him, instead of hindering him.

Fraternally yours,

F. W. SCHACHT,

Nat'l Pres.

A State of Affairs

Chapters who had met the National Assessment by April 1st, in the order in which they paid:

Pittsburg
Chicago
Iowa
Indiana
Stanford
Harvard
Cornell
New York

Chapters who had not met their National Assessment by April 1st:

Columbia
Missouri
Minnesota
Kansas
California
Texas

Washington
Nebraska
Illinois

Date basis of assessment was adopted, July 7th, 1916.

By whom endorsed, National Council of PHI DELTA KAPPA, representatives of every chapter in the Fraternity voting affirmatively.

Date assessment was levied by the National Treasurer, January 6th, 1917.

Time limit within which assessment should be met, sixty days from date of levying assessment.

Further comments—unnecessary.

Fraternally,

EDWIN A. LEE,

Nat'l Treas.